

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

MEMORANDUM

Date posted _____ Initial _____

October 31, 2005

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 88 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

See Transmittal Distribution List

PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE
FOR THE CHAMPVA PM (POLICY MANUAL)

Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.

MTOC (Master Table of Contents).

- Removes Chapter 2, Section 26.4, *Diaphanography (Transillumination Light Scanning)* to RESERVED.

Chapter 1, Section 2.5, CHILD.

- Under Policy Considerations clarifies home-schooling programs designed for the high school education level students that have been approved by a school official, such as the Superintendent, and certified by the State or County Board of Education, are recognized in establishing student status. Home-school programs designed or intended for students beyond the high school education level are not covered by CHAMPVA and cannot be used to establish student status.

Chapter 2, Section 4.9, CARDIAC REHABILITATION.

- Under Policy adds to the list of cardiac events that support rehabilitation programs, patients with an internal defibrillator/pacemaker without underlying coronary artery disease.

Chapter 2, Section 16.5, EXPERIMENTAL/INVESTIGATIONAL (UNPROVEN) PROCEDURES.

- Under Policy clarifies when cost sharing may be allowed for services, supplies, devices, or medications included in a study/experimental protocol or associated with an unproven device, treatment or procedure.
- Under Policy Considerations revises the review date for the partial listing of experimental/investigational (unproven) devices, medical treatments, or procedures to May 2005; removes references to balloon dilatation of the prostate [June 1996] as this was added as an exclusion in Chapter 2, Section 33.1, *Urinary System*; removes cryosurgery for prostate metastases [November 1996] as this was added as an exclusion in Chapter 2, Section 36.1, *Male Genital System*; removes MosaicPlasty [August 1998] as this was added as an exclusion in Chapter 2, Section 19.1, *Musculoskeletal System*; removes human papillomavirus DNA testing in the management of cervical neoplasia [October 1995] as this was added as a covered benefit under Chapter 2, Section 35.2, PAP (Papanicolaou) Tests; removes UAE (Uterine Artery Embolization) for treatment of fibroids as this was added as a covered benefit under Chapter 2, Section 35.1, *Female Genital System*; removes enterra implant for gastroparesis [April 2000], and adds to the partial listing Diaphanography (Transillumination Light Scanning). [May 2005]

Chapter 2, Section 19.1, MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM.

- Amends Procedure Codes.
- Under Policy Considerations clarifies that endoscopic release of the transverse carpal ligament is a covered benefit and removes reference to Health Administration Center.
- Under Exclusions adds ligament replacement with absorbable copolymer carbon fiber scaffold.

Chapter 2, Section 19.2, BONE GROWTH STIMULATORS.

- Under Policy removes reference to PEMF (Pulsed Electromagnetic Field); clarifies coverage criteria for the use of semi-invasive, invasive, and non-invasive electrical bone stimulators; that electrical bone stimulators may be used in order to increase the probability of spinal fusion success in patients with risk factors, such as smoking, obesity, degenerative osteoarthritis, previous fusion surgery, previous disc surgery, or gross instability; and with any other condition where it is determined that electrical stimulation is likely to avoid the need for open reduction and bone graft.
- Under Exclusions clarifies the use of invasive and semi-invasive direct current electrical stimulation for the nonunion of fractures to other than long bones.

Chapter 2, Section 24.1, PROSTHETIC DEVICES AND SUPPLIES.

- Under Exclusions adds that altered auditory feedback devices are not considered augmentative communication devices/voice prostheses.

Chapter 2, Section 25.2, PULMONARY SERVICES.

- Amends Related Authority.
- Under Policy Considerations amends policy title reference from *Physical Therapy* to *Physical Medicine/Therapy*.

Chapter 2, Section 26.4, DIAPHANOGRAPHY (TRANSILLUMINATION LIGHT SCANNING).

- This policy was removed to RESERVED. Policy guidance pertaining to Diaphanography (Transillumination Light Scanning) can now be found in Chapter 2, Section 16.5, *Experimental/Investigational (Unproven) Procedures*.

Chapter 2, Section 27.1, INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM.

- Under Policy Considerations adds that application of tissue-cultured skin grafts for diabetic foot ulcers is a covered benefit.

Chapter 2, Section 35.2, PAP (PAPANICOLAOU) TESTS.

- Under Effective Date adds February 6, 2004, HPV (Human Papillomavirus) testing using the Digene Hybrid Capture 2 HPV DNA test.
- Amends Procedure Codes.
- Under Description adds HPV testing using the Digene Hybrid Capture 2 DNA test.
- Under Policy adds that HPV testing is covered for the following: In women 30-years and older, used in conjunction with a Pap to adjunctively screen for the presence or absence of high-risk HVP types. When the combination is used, women who receive a negative result on both tests should be rescreened no more frequently than every 3-years, and to screen patients with ASCUS (Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance) abnormal Pap smear results.

**Chapter 3, Section 7.1, ASC (AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER)
REIMBURSEMENT.**

- Under Policy removes Note under Background and adds for clarity a separate paragraph explaining that diagnostic procedures performed prior to the date of the ambulatory surgery are processed separately and paid under CMAC or the appropriate payment methodology.

Code Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

Subject Index. Amends index to add and delete changes referenced in this transmittal.

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